

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-04 CU-04 SCCT-02 EB-11

COME-00 DOTE-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 L-03 H-03 SCSE-00

SCA-01 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /105 W

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R 301452Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7275

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN 3427

UNCLAS FRANKFURT 3427

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, GW

SUBJECT: THIRD DAY OF DISTURBANCES OVER TRANSIT FARE INCREASE

REF: FRANKFURT 3382

1. THIRD SUCCESSIVE DAY OF DISTURBANCES MAY 29 IN FRANKFURT CITY STREETS, OSTENSIBLY PROTESTING PUBLIC TRANSIT FARE INCREASES, BROUGHT SEVEN MORE POLICEMEN INJURED AND 106 ARRESTS. WITH DEMONSTRATORS REDUCED TO HARD-CORE 500-600 VIOLENCE-BENT RADICALS, WHOM LORD MAYOR ARNDT BRANDED AS QUOTE COMMON CRIMINALS UNQUOTE, THEY SHIFTED TACTICS TO SCATTERED ATTACKS ON STREETCARS AND SWITCHING POINTS IN SEVERAL PARTS OF CITY, ALTHOUGH STOPPAGES AND SPORADIC BATTLES WITH POLICE STILL TOOK PLACE IN CENTRAL SHIPPING AREA AS WELL. GREATLY INCREASED NUMBER OF ARRESTS DUE LARGELY TO POLICE SUCCESS IN GETTING TO SCATTERED SCENES OF ATTACK BEFORE SMALL BANDS HAD DISPERSED. STREETCAR MAINTENANCE CREWS KEPT BUSY ALL DAY AND MOST OF NIGHT REMOVING CEMENT POURED INTO TRACKS AND SWITCHES.

2. LOUDSPEAKER VAN USED BY DEMONSTRATORS TRIED

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TO WHIP UP SYMPATHY BY SPREADING FALSE STORY THAT

17 YEAR OLD SCHOOLBOY INJURED PREVIOUS DAY HAD DIED.
STORY ALSO CARRIED ON OFFICIAL HESSIAN RADIO NETWORK
BEFORE DENIAL BY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL WAS OBTAINED.
ABOUT THIRTY PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR DISTRIBUTING
PAMPHLETS URGING RESISTANCE TO POLICE.

3. ARNDT ESTIMATED DAMAGE TO CITY TRANSIT PROPERTY
DURING FIRST TWO DAYS AT NEARLY HALF MILLION MARKS,
INCLUDING TWENTY TWO DAMAGED STREETCARS AND EIGHT
TICKET MACHINES (WHICH COST DM 16,000 APIECE)
HESSEN INTERIOR MINISTER BIELEFELD EXPECTS DISTURBANCES
TO CONTINUE UNTIL WEEKEND.HARLAN

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30 JUN 2005

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